

PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

When I was Senior Warden 2015 and 2016 I found that the greatest need of our congregation was for Pastoral Care. We seemed to always have people in our congregation who were facing a health crisis, or loss of a spouse, or just declining health as a result of aging. I left my position as Senior Warden to address this need and became the Chair of the Commission for Pastoral Care. Deacon Chris Christy is our clergy liaison for Pastoral Care and Parish Nurse Keehna Sture is part of our team. Sharon Tootle is our Vestry Liaison. Jeanne Miller is responsible for Telecare ministry and our "Love Notes" ministry.

In 2016 we enrolled St. Luke's as a Stephen Ministry parish and in 2017 Deacon Chris and I enrolled in Stephen Leader training which we completed in January 2017. In September of 2017 we began training our first class of Stephen Ministers and graduated 8 new Stephen Ministers in February of this year following 50 hours of training. As of this writing we have 7 Stephen Ministers paired with care receivers. We plan to begin our next class in September of this year, so if you are interested please contact Deacon Chris or Lucy Kemper for more information. If you have been a Stephen Minister in another parish and would like to renew your training, there is an abbreviated refresher course.

Stephen Ministry seem like too much for you? There are so many other ways to be involved in Pastoral Care. We plan to have another training for Telecare ministry this year and hope to enroll more people in this extremely valuable work keeping our community connected. All you need is a telephone and a listening heart. If talking is not your cup of tea, how about writing "love notes" to members of our congregation who are in need of support from their St. Luke's family?

Like to cook? When people come home from a hospitalization or are recovering from an accident or illness, we offer to provide meals for a week or two to help them concentrate on healing. We also provide meals for bereaved families as they cope with their loss and an influx of family.

Do you drive? We have members of our congregation who can no longer drive but really want to attend church on Sundays and other parish activities. Please let us know if you could drive one of your church family to attend worship.

LEM's (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) take "church" to those who are unable to attend worship. LEM's are trained to take communion and the care of St. Luke's community to those who are homebound.

Come and join our team to care for members of our community in need. Help us be the hands of Christ to members of the St. Luke's family.

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